GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6921
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MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION OF TELECOM NETWORK IN NER
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the target fixed with regard to modernization and expansion of telecom and IT network in the North-East Region including internet, mobile and WLL connectivity during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the actual progress made so far in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure efficient internet accessibility and mobile service in the North-East Region?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (c) The telecom facilities in North East Region are mainly provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). Reliance Telecom Private Limited and Bharti Hexacom Limited are the private operators in the Region. In addition to the fixed phones, to provide mobile telephone services, the targets for WLL and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) were also fixed, as per the details given below:

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
Connections	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
WLL	6600	8958	31700	17412	60000	22492
CMTS	6000	6170	9550	54359	26290	210988
Internet	-	6954	-	6246	28000	11063

As a result, there are 54048 WLL and 379513 cellular mobile telephones in NE Region as on 31.03.2005. Further, the National Informatics Centre (NIC) is mainly responsible for I.T. Services in the North East Region. The details of installation of VSATs and Video Conferencing (VC) facility provided by NIC in the North Eastern States are as given below:

Sl. No.	State	No. of VSATs	VC
1	Arunachal Pradesh	13	1
2	Assam	25	1
3	Manipur	10	1
4	Meghalaya	11	2
5	Mizoram	3	1
6	Nagaland	9	10
7	Sikkim	5	1
8	Tripura	6	6

NIC has also set up 487 Community Information Centres in the North Eastern States to enable citizens to use the infrastructure for various Information Communication Technology (ICT) Services such as internet access, e-mail, training in computer basic, printing, word processing, Desk Top Publishing (DTP) etc.

As a part of cellular mobile expansion plan, BSNL is in the process of augmenting its cellular network capacity in NE Region by 4.5 lakh and the network roll out is expected from July, 2005 onwards. M/s Reliance Telecom private Limited has planned to cover large number of cities and towns by cellular mobile service in the next two years. Shortly, M/s Bharti Hexacom is also commissioning their cellular mobile service in the Region. Further, BSNL has planned to add about 23000 Dial Up Internet connections apart from

Broadband connections in the NE Region during 2005-06.